

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Hovey: Biennial Budget Takes More From Monroe, Newtown Taxpayers; Gives Less Back



The two-year state budget approved by the state House of Representatives takes more from Monroe and Newtown taxpayers than it gives back to the towns, breaks the state's Constitutional Spending Cap, and could result in the loss of hundreds of family farms in Connecticut, said state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112th District, who opposed the spending package.

The budget proposal (House Bill 6940) was approved 100 – 50 early Tuesday morning, with most Democrats supporting the proposal and most Republicans voting to reject it.

“I went through the numbers in this budget several times before voting to reject it,” Representative Hovey said. “They simply do not add up for the people of Monroe and Newtown. The 112th District will pay far more in taxes than it will get back from the state in the form of state grants for our schools and for infrastructure improvements that make our highways and bridges safer for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.”

“By giving almost unanimous support to this spending package, the majority Democrats turned their backs on the overwhelming majority of voters who ratified the spending cap in 1991 – and on today's overburdened taxpayers who strongly support it to keep state spending under control. The increase in this budget is three times the increase in the cost of living - and it violates the spending cap for three years in a row - this year, next year and the year after that,” Representative Hovey said.

“With this year's projected surplus expected to total \$700 million, the responsible thing to do would have been to deposit it in the state's rainy day fund or use it to help pay off the state's bonded indebtedness. Instead, they took \$650 million from the surplus and spent it on this bloated budget. It is as if I inherited \$10,000 and spent it on a new fur coat instead of using it to replace a leaky roof,” Representative Hovey said.

“As a conservationist who supports farmland preservation and the protection of undeveloped open space and forested areas, I was appalled by the new inheritance taxes that are included in this package. Because most farms consist of several acres that could be valued in the millions if passed on intact, many second or third generation farm families would have to sell their properties to developers to settle the estate tax bill they would owe the state. We could be looking at the loss of hundreds of Connecticut farms as a direct result of the death tax increases included in this budget,” Representative Hovey said.